MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): (*a*) No.

(*b*) Yes, a case of illicit sale of arrack was taken up by the Second Class Magistrate, Kottarakara, from a compound near the Kadakkal temple on 14-7-1109 and the fact was reported to the Excise Commissioner. The case has been ordered to be charge-sheeted.

Removal of silt in the Nelpura Kadavu Canal.

244. *MR. V. RAMAKRISHNA PANICKAR (*Kartikapalli II*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether they are aware of the existence of silt in a small portion called Chekka in the Nelpurakadavu canal in the Kartikapalli taluk;

(*b*) whether they are aware that the silt is an obstruction to boat traffic through a length of 4 miles of the canal; and

(*c*) what the removal of the silt would cost?

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer*): (*a*) and (*b*) This information is now gathered from the member and from an inspection since made by the local P. W. D. subordinate.

(*c*) About Rs. 2,800.

MR. V. RAMAKRISHNA PANICKAR (*Kartikapalli II*): Have the Government taken action for the removal of silt?

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer*): It is reported that the canal is not under the P. W. D.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): May I know whether it is not the P. W. D. that is to attend to this work?

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer*): No; I am informed that the canal is not under the P. W. D.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum Rural*): May I know under which department the canal is?

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer*): I claim notice.

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Pattanamtitta*): May I know then why an officer of the P. W. D. was asked to inspect the spot? Am I to take it that the officer undertook the inspection of his own accord?

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer*): When we got this interpellation, we sent it to the officer on the spot and asked him to report.

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Pattanamtitta*): Am I to take it that, when the P. W. D. officer of the locality was asked about the matter, the Chief Engineer was not aware of the fact that this canal was not under the P. W. D.?

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer*): No, not until I got his reply.

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Pattanamtitta*): Then, may I know the name of the department, according to the reply received by the Chief Engineer, which claims control over this canal?

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer*): I have already answered, Sir, that I claim notice.

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